JOHN BAIRD AND ELIZABETH SULSER FOWERS

John Baird Fowers was born February 7, 1876 in Hooper, Weber County, and when four years of age moved with his family to Charleston where he attended school. He married Elizabeth Bertha Sulser, February 27, 1901 in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born in Midway on November 17, 1882. They were the parents of seven children: Ila Mae, born Aug. 2, 1902; Mary Elizabeth, born Feb. 1, 1904; Ruth, born May 31, 1907; Sarah, born Feb. 4, 1909; John Alfred, born June 2, 1911; Jessie, born May 8, 1913; Joseph Frank, born April 26, 1925.

In 1917 the family moved to Provo and then to Orem in 1919. Through the years they were active in Church and missionary work. John served in the British Mission from 1922 to 1924 and in California as a missionary from 1925 to 1926.

Bertha was also active in Church work, and supervised the family farm while John was on his two missions. She died on Nov. 9, 1946, and on Feb. 11, 1947 John married Nellie Park Cordner. 1021

CHARLESTON BIOGRAPHIES

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GEORGE THOMPSON AND ELLEN MARIA WAGSTAFF BAKER



George Thompson Baker was born in Des Moines, Iowa, February 20, 1847, a son of George and Rhoda Ann Thompson Baker. Married Ellen Maria Wagstaff December 12, 1870 in the Endowment House in Salt Lake City. She was born July 15, 1852, at Caldicutte, Bedfordshire, England, a daughter of Samuel and Lucy Webb Wagstaff. George died Feb. 25, 1927 at Chapin, Idaho, and Ellen Maria died Nov. 21, 1925 in American Fork.

In the year 1850 George T., his mother, father and twin brother, John T. came to Utah and settled in Tooele. When John was six years of age he died and was buried in Tooele.

George T. helped his father, for he was the oldest in the family. They boiled the water of Great Salt Lake near Black Rock to get salt for domestic use. He often went with his mother to gather sego bulbs for food. In 1865 the family moved to American Fork. His father was a blacksmith and George learned the trade.

George joined in the Black Hawk War and fought the Indians. He learned to speak the Indian language quite well.

Ellen Maria and her family embraced the gospel in England and as soon as they could save enough money, came to America on a sailing vessel, which took about six weeks. Ellen walked most of the way to Utah where they arrived after many hardships, in Oct. 1862. They soon went to American Fork where they did farming.

Ellen had very little schooling but was very adept in every kind of household task and sewing. After their marriage, George and Ellen built an adobe home in American Fork.

Nymphus C. Murdock of Charleston had heard that George was an excellent blacksmith so he went to American Fork to urge him to come to Charleston where a blacksmith was badly needed. After a time George decided to go. They spent two days driving there. They lived over the Murdock store till George could build a home which they moved into in 1883. Ellen clerked in N. C. Murdock's store and George blacksmithed and farmed. Later they built a larger home and kept travelers. George prided himself on raising the best of everything to use on the table, including vegetables, small fruits and honey. He raised the first grapes in Charleston.

George worked to get free schooling for children through taxation. He believed in education and was determined his girls should have good schooling.

They were parents of three girls: Ellen Melvina, Lucy Amanda and Fanny Ladacy.